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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
BOWMAN, AMY HUDSON	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1635	

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/735,991	GOODNOW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Amy H. Bowman	1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12/15/2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

RD

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1, 3, 5, 14, 19, 25, 28, 30 and 33, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a test compound with a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that binds to the mammalian sequence #115, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

II. Claims 2, 4, 6, 15, 22, 26, 29, 31 and 34, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a sequence #115 ligand with a mammalian sequence #115 in the presence or absence of a test compound and identifying a compound that alters the binding of the sequence #115 ligand and the mammalian sequence #115, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

III. Claims 7, 8, 16, 27 and 32, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the mammalian #115 sequence, wherein the activity of mammalian sequence #115 is determined by measuring the level of cAMP in the cell, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

IV. Claims 7, 9, 16, 27 and 32, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the mammalian #115 sequence, wherein the activity of mammalian sequence #115 is determined by measuring the level of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} in the cell, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

V. Claims 7, 10, 11, 16, 27 and 32, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the mammalian #115 sequence, wherein the activity of mammalian sequence #115 is determined by measuring expression of a reporter gene, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

VI. Claims 7, 12, 16, 27 and 32, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the mammalian #115 sequence, wherein the activity of mammalian sequence #115 is determined by measuring intracellular inosital 1,4,5-trisphosphate, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

VII. Claims 7, 13, 16, 27 and 32, drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, the method comprising contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the mammalian #115 sequence, wherein the activity of mammalian sequence #115 is determined by measuring intracellular 1,2-diacylgylcerol, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

VIII. Claims 17 and 18, drawn to a pharmaceutical formulation for the modulation of body weight comprising a compound that modulates the activity of a mammalian sequence #115,classified in class 514, subclass 44.

IX. Claim 20, drawn to a method of treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound that binds to mammalian sequence #115, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

X. Claim 21, drawn to a method of treating cachexia comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound that binds to mammalian sequence #115, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

XI. Claim 23, drawn to a method of treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound alters the binding of the sequence #115 ligand to the mammalian #115 sequence, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

XII. Claim 24, drawn to a method of treating cachexia comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound alters the binding of the sequence #115 ligand to the mammalian #115 sequence, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

XIII. Claim 35, drawn to an antibody that recognizes an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

XIV. Claim 36, drawn to an antibody that recognizes an isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The invention of group I is unrelated to the invention of group II. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation. Although each of the groups are drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, each of the specific methods have different modes of operation. The method of group I comprises contacting a test compound with a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that binds to the mammalian sequence #115, whereas the method of group II comprises contacting a sequence #115 ligand with a mammalian

sequence #115 in the presence or absence of a test compound and identifying a test compound that alters the binding of the ligand. Group I does not involve the use of a ligand. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in mode of operation. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group I is unrelated to the inventions of groups III-VII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation. Although each of the groups are drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, each of the specific methods have different modes of operation. The method of group I comprises contacting a test compound with a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that binds to the mammalian sequence #115, whereas each of the methods of groups III-VII comprise contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the mammalian #115 sequence, further comprising measuring the level of cAMP, cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}, reporter gene, intracellular inosital 1,4,5-triphosphate, or intracellular 1,2-diacylglycerol. Group I merely involves binding to a mammalian sequence #115, rather than alteration of mammalian #115 activity. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other

invention, due to the differences in mode of operation. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups I-VII are related to the invention of group VIII as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the pharmaceutical formulation of group VIII can be used in a diagnostic or screening method, which does involve modulating body weight. Each of these inventions involve separate considerations and would require a separate search. To search one of the inventions would not necessarily return art against the other.

The invention of group I is unrelated to the inventions of groups IX, X, XI and XII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. The method of group I is drawn to identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, wherein the methods of groups IX, X, XI and XII are drawn to treating obesity or cachexia. A search for group I would not involve treatment effects. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in effects. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group I is unrelated to the inventions of groups XIII and XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different functions. The method of group I is drawn to identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, whereas groups XIII and XIV are drawn to antibodies. A search for group I would not involve the search for an antibody. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in function. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group II is unrelated to the inventions of groups III-VII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation. Although each of the groups are drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, each of the specific methods have different modes of operation. The method of group II comprises contacting a sequence #115 ligand with a mammalian sequence #115 in the presence or absence of a test compound and identifying a test compound that alters the binding of the ligand, whereas each of the methods of groups III-VII comprise contacting a test compound with a cell expressing a mammalian sequence #115 and identifying a compound that alters activity of the

mammalian #115 sequence, further comprising measuring the level of cAMP, cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}, reporter gene, intracellular inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate, or intracellular 1,2-diacylglycerol. Group II involves ligand binding to a mammalian sequence #115, rather than alteration of mammalian #115 activity. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in mode of operation. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group II is unrelated to the inventions of groups IX, X, XI and XII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. The method of group II is drawn to identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, whereas the methods of groups IX, X, XI and XII are drawn to treating obesity or cachexia. A search for group II would not involve treatment effects. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in effects. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group II is unrelated to the inventions of groups XIII and XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not

disclosed as capable of use together and have different functions. The method of group II is drawn to identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, whereas groups XIII and XIV are drawn to antibodies. A search for group II would not involve the search for an antibody. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in function. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups III-VII are each unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation. Although each of the groups are drawn to a method for identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, each of the specific methods have different modes of operation. The method of group III comprises determining the activity of mammalian sequence #115 by measuring the level of cAMP in the cell; group IV is drawn to determining the activity of mammalian sequence #115 by measuring the level of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} in the cell; group V is drawn to determining the activity of mammalian sequence #115 by measuring expression of a reporter gene; group VI is drawn to determining the activity of mammalian sequence #115 by measuring intracellular inosital 1,4,5-trisphosphate; and group VII is drawn to determining the activity of mammalian sequence #115 by measuring intracellular 1,2-diacylglycerol. Each of these methods involve distinct mechanisms, each comprising an agent that is structurally distinct from each other. A search for one of these inventions

would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in structure and mode of operation. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups III-VII are each unrelated to the inventions of groups IX, X, XI and XII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. The methods of groups III-VII are drawn to identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, whereas the methods of groups IX, X, XI and XII are drawn to treating obesity or cachexia. A search for any of the methods of groups III-VII would not involve treatment effects. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in effects. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of groups III-VII are each unrelated to the inventions of groups XIII and XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different functions. The methods of groups III-VII are drawn to identifying compounds useful for modulating body weight, whereas groups XIII and XIV are drawn to antibodies. A search for the methods of groups III-VII would not involve the search for an antibody. A search for one of these

inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in function. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups IX-XII are each related to the invention of group VIII as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the pharmaceutical formulation of group VIII can be used in a diagnostic or screening method, which does involve preparing a pharmaceutical composition, or treating obesity or cachexia. Each of these inventions involve separate considerations and would require a separate search. To search one of the inventions would not necessarily return art against the other.

The invention of group VIII is unrelated to the inventions of groups XIII and XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different functions. Group VIII is drawn to a pharmaceutical formulation for modulation of body weight, whereas groups XIII and XIV are drawn to antibodies. A search for the pharmaceutical composition would not involve the search for an antibody. A search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in function. To

search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups IX and XI are unrelated to the inventions of groups X and XII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. The methods of groups IX and XI are drawn to treating obesity, whereas the methods of groups X and XII are drawn to treating cachexia. Obesity and cachexia are two distinct disorders, each having separate etiologies. To search for treating one of these disorders would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in effects. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups IX and XI are unrelated to the inventions of groups XIII and XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. The methods of groups IX and XI are drawn to treating obesity, whereas groups XIII and XIV are drawn to antibodies. To search for methods of treating obesity would not involve a search for the antibodies. To search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art

against the other invention, due to the differences in effects. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group IX is unrelated to the invention of group XI. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation. Although the methods of groups IX and XI are each drawn to treating obesity, each of the methods involves a different mode of operation and different structural considerations. The methods of group IX comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound that binds mammalian sequence #115, whereas the method of group XI comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound that alters the binding of the sequence #115 ligand to the mammalian #115 sequence. A search for the method of group IX does not involve ligands. To search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in mode of operation. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The inventions of groups X and XII are unrelated to the inventions of groups XIII and XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. The methods of

groups X and XII are drawn to treating cachexia, whereas groups XIII and XIV are drawn to antibodies. To search for methods of treating cachexia would not involve a search for the antibodies. To search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in effects. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group X is unrelated to the invention of group XII. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation. Although the methods of groups X and XII are each drawn to treating cachexia, each of the methods involves a different mode of operation and different structural considerations. The methods of group X comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound that binds mammalian sequence #115, whereas the method of group XII comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a test compound that alters the binding of the sequence #115 ligand to the mammalian #115 sequence. A search for the method of group X does not involve ligands. To search for one of these inventions would not necessarily return art against the other invention, due to the differences in mode of operation. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

The invention of group XIII is unrelated to the invention of group XIV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together

and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different effects. Although the methods of groups XIII and XIV are each drawn to antibodies, each of the antibodies recognize an isolated polypeptide comprising a different amino acid sequence. Each of the sequences are unrelated and are considered separate and distinct inventions. Each of the sequences do not have a common structural core and therefore require a separate search. To search for one of the antibodies would not necessarily return art against the other antibody. To search more than one of these inventions in the same application presents a search burden.

Because the inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, and because a search for art against one group would not necessarily return art against another, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is

earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Claim 11 contains multiple species of reporter genes.

Claim 11 is drawn to alkaline phosphatase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, luciferase, glucuronide synthetase, growth hormone, or placental alkaline phosphatase.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy H. Bowman whose telephone number is 571-272-0755. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00 am – 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached on 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It

also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Amy H. Bowman
Examiner
Art Unit 1635

JAMES SCHULTZ
PATENT EXAMINER